RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF
      NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. 09/771,436
Attorney Docket No. Q62839

IN THE CLAIMS.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for identifying the current route of paths in a telecommunications MS-SPRINGS network, the MS-SPRING network comprising:

   network elements or nodes, each node comprising a controller, the controller comprising controller status;

   fiber optic spans interposed between the network elements to form a ring, each network element being connected to adjacent network elements through said fiber optic spans allowing a bidirectional communication therebetween;

   at least one path connecting two or more network elements of the ring, the at least one path, in a network free-of-failure condition, following a corresponding at least one Path Nominal Route;

   a network manager; and

   a mechanism for protecting traffic travelling in the network, said protection mechanism being shared in the network and being operated by the network manager, ·

   the method comprising the steps of:

      (a) providing the network manager with information relating to the Nominal Route of the at least one path; and

      (b) providing the network manager with information of current status of the at least one network element, wherein it comprises the step of:

      (c) processing, at the network manager, the information provided through steps (a) and (b) so as to calculate the current route of the at least one path.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising wherein it comprises the further step of identifying what which paths of the at least one path are carried at a given span.

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3.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the processing step (c) comprises ~~the steps of~~:

    (c1) analyzing the Path Nominal Route of the at least one path;

    (c2) <u>making a determination as to whether</u> ~~verifying if~~ at least one of the Nominal Route spans comprises a node requesting the intervention of the protection mechanism to serve a failure or a user command resulting in a span re-routing<u>;</u>

    <u>when the determination is</u> ~~and,~~ in the affirmative, declaring that the current route coincides with the nominal route, <u>with a</u> ~~where~~ main <u>span being</u> ~~spans are~~ replaced by <u>a</u> spare <u>span</u> ~~spans~~.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, <u>further comprising checking for ring re-routing, when the determination in (c2) is negative,</u> ~~wherein, should none of the nominal route spans be bounded by a node requesting the intervention of the protection mechanism to serve a failure or a user command resulting in a span re-routing, it further comprises the step of checking if~~ <u>by determining whether</u> at least one of the spans of the Nominal Route is bounded by a node requesting the intervention of the protection mechanism to serve a failure or a user command resulting in a ring re-routing.

5.   (Currently Amended) <u>A method</u> ~~Method~~ according to claim 4, <u>further comprising</u> ~~wherein it further comprises the step of~~ declaring that the current route coincides with the <u>Nominal Route when the check for ring re-routing is negative</u> ~~nominal route should none of the nominal route spans is be bounded by a node requesting the intervention of the protection mechanism to serve a failure or a user command resulting in a ring re-routing~~.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, <u>further comprising:</u> ~~wherein, should at least one of the Nominal Route spans be bounded by a node requesting the intervention~~

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~~of the protection mechanism to serve a failure or a user command resulting in a ring re-routing, it~~

~~further includes the steps of checking if~~

when the check for ring re-routing is affirmative, making a negated route ring determination as

to whether any spans of the negated route comprise a ring node; ~~and in the~~

when the negated route ring determination is negative, declaring that the current route

coincides with the Ring Spare Route; and ~~, or in the~~

when the negated route ring determination is affirmative, declaring that the current route

coincides with the nominal route.

7. (Currently Amended) A network manager able to identify the current route of paths in a
telecommunications MS-SPRINGS network, the MS-SPRING network comprising:

network elements or nodes, each node comprising a controller, the controller comprising

controller status;

fiber optic spans interposed between the network elements to form a ring, each network

element being connected to adjacent network elements through said fiber optic spans

allowing a bidirectional communication therebetween;

at least one path connecting two or more network elements of the ring, the at least one path, in

a network free-of-failure condition, following a corresponding at least one Path Nominal

Route; and

a mechanism for protecting traffic travelling in the network, said protection mechanism being

shared in the network and being operated by the network manager,

the network manager comprising:

(a) a memory for storing information relating to the Nominal Route of the at least one

path; and

(b) a memory for storing information of current status of the at least one network

element, wherein it further comprises:

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(c) a processor for processing the information stored at (a) and (b) so as to calculate the current route of the at least one path.

8.   (Currently Amended) A <u>network</u> manager according to claim 7, wherein it further comprises means for identifying the carried paths at each span.

9.   (Original) A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all the steps of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

10.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said computer-readable medium comprising computer program code means adapted to perform all the steps of claim 1 when said program is run on a computer.

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